



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

J. H. BUSTEED,

L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.S.A., (London),

FOR THE

Wangford Rural District,

For the Year 1919.

BECCLES:

NOBBS & GOATE, PRINTERS, SMALLGATE; AND AT LODDON.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AS TO THE
Sanitary Condition of the Wangford
Rural District,
During the Year 1919.

To the Chairman and Members of the
COUNCIL OF THE RURAL DISTRICT OF WANGFORD.

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present to you my report for the year 1919.

The Wangford Rural District extends along the southern bank of the river Waveney for 14 miles, with an average breadth of 6 miles, covering an area of 31,192 acres. In the river valley there is a considerable area of marsh land, about a quarter of a mile broad, liable to be flooded after heavy rains. Away from the valley of the river the ground rises to an average height of 80 feet above the sea level and the surface is undulating. The higher land is covered with a layer of the Great Chalky Boulder Clay, beneath which sands and gravel are found down to the level of the river bed. On the clay area ponds are numerous, and form the chief water supply of the District.

The population, as estimated by the Registrar General, is 3928 and is almost entirely agricultural, or dependent upon agriculture.

The Births registered in the District were 74.—Males 35.—Females 39.

Of Illegitimate children there were 8 births registered: Males 5.—Females 3.

The number of births is 13 less than the previous year, but only 2 less than the average number of births for the years 1915 to 1919 inclusive.

The Deaths for the District numbered 51, only four more than last year, which was the lowest figure for the previous 9 years at least, 26 of the number were Males and 25 Females. Of that number 21 were over 65 years of age.

Infant Mortality 14 deaths occurred in Infants under 1 year of age, of whom 3 were illegitimate, 10 were Males and 4 Females.

The number exactly equals the total deaths amongst Infants under 1 year of age for the 3 previous years and is the highest recorded, for the last 8 years at least.

Such a marked increase in Infant Mortality is to be deplored.

Six of the deaths were however due to Congenital Debility, Malformation or Premature Birth, whilst Zymotic Disease only accounts for one death.

Notifiable Diseases.—The following cases were notified during the year :—

Measles	...	...	41
Scarlet Fever	...	...	7
Diphtheria	...	...	5
Chicken Pox	...	...	1
Malaria	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	1
Total			57

This is the highest number recorded since 1914. As will be seen from the above figures, the chief disease was Measles of which there was a slight epidemic of a mild type. It must not, however, be forgotten that neither Influenza nor Pneumonia were notifiable during the early months of the year.

On account of Infectious Diseases the following Schools were closed during the year :

Shadingfield Council School, closed from March 4th to March 17th and from April 11th to May 12th owing to epidemic of influenza.

Barsham Voluntary School, closed from March 10th to March 31st owing to epidemic of influenza.

Sotterley Voluntary School, closed from April 7th till after the Easter Holidays owing to epidemic of influenza.

Ilketshall St. Lawrence School, closed from Dec. 2nd to Dec. 15th owing to epidemic of measles.

Owing to Influenza not being notifiable in the early months of the year there is no record of the number of victims to the disease.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—Six cases were notified during the year. One female died from the disease

Cancer.—Three deaths from this disease were notified during the year.

The Water Supply in the district is dependent on open ponds.

Sewage.—The Pail System for the night-soil is employed.

Housing Accommodation.—A Committee of your Council have gone very carefully and thoroughly into this matter and you have received and considered their report. There is no doubt New Cottages are urgently needed practically all over the district, but the area is so large and the villages so scattered that it is a very difficult matter to know how to draw up suitable plans. Since it is impossible

in these days to aim at the ideal, one can but hope that a few cottages may be built as soon as possible in each village to commence with and more arranged for in the future.

Cowsheds and Dairies.—These have been periodically inspected and found to be clean and well kept.

There are 17 cowkeepers on the register, and about 300 cows in milk.

The appended report of the Sanitary Inspector gives further information.

I am Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J. H. BUSTEED,

L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.S.A. (LOND.)

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year ending 31st December, 1919.

WANGFORD RURAL DISTRICT.

GENTLEMEN,

I have to report the following Sanitary Work for the year ending 31st December, 1919.

Periodical Inspection of the District has been made, and the various complaints received by me during the year have all received my attention, and in most cases I was able to get nuisances complained of abated without serving notices in the usual way.

Notices to abate nuisances were served in 16 cases, including 4 cases of overcrowding, and 4 closing orders have been made.

Excepting 1 case of overcrowding which was dismissed by the Magistrates, all were complied with.

In 3 cases the Sanitary Pail System has been substituted for privies.

Cowsheds in the district with few exceptions (where white-washing was needed) were found to be kept in satisfactory condition.

There are 17 Cowsheds and approximately 300 Cows in milk.

The total number of houses disinfected, after cases of Infectious Diseases and under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health, was 12, viz :—5 cases of diphtheria and 7 scarlet fever.

Under the "Rat Destruction Orders," 7,526 rats have been accounted for to me.

No New Houses have been erected during the year.

Under the Housing Acts, building has commenced in one parish and 4 other sites have been acquired. Building Contracts have been signed in respect of 4 parishes, and the remaining sites selected by the Housing Committee for their housing schemes have been either provisionally approved by the Inspector or definitely sanctioned by the Ministry. The building plans for St. James have been submitted to the Ministry for their approval.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. EARL,

Inspector.

May, 1920.

